

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Application of

ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST AIRLINES, INC.

**for an exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 40109
(United States-Dominican Republic)**

)
)
)
) **Docket OST-2006-**
)
)
)
)

**APPLICATION OF
ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST AIRLINES, INC.
FOR AN EXEMPTION**

Communications with respect to this document should be addressed to:

Samuel J. Watts
Vice President – People
Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc.
100 Hartsfield Centre Parkway
Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30354
(404) 766-1400

Robert E. Cohn
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-4999
recohn@hhlaw.com

Counsel for
**ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST
AIRLINES, INC.**

April 21, 2006

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
April 21, 2006**

Application of

ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST AIRLINES, INC.

**for an exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 40109
(United States-Dominican Republic)**

)
)
)
) **Docket OST-2006-**
)
)
)
)

**APPLICATION OF
ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST AIRLINES, INC.
FOR AN EXEMPTION**

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109 and Subpart C of the Department's Rules of Practice in Proceedings, Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc. ("ASA") hereby applies for an exemption authorizing it to provide scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property, and mail between a point or points in the United States and a point or points in the Dominican Republic, and to combine this exemption authority with all of ASA's existing certificate and exemption authority, consistent with applicable international agreements. ASA requests that its exemption authority be granted as soon as possible¹ and remain in effect for a period of at least two years, or until 90 days after the Department's

¹ Counsel for ASA will poll the U.S. carrier representatives listed on the attached service list and promptly notify the Department of the results.

final determination on an ASA application for U.S.-Dominican Republic certificate authority, whichever occurs earlier.

ASA provides extensive service as a “Delta Connection” carrier under the DL* code of Delta Air Lines, Inc. (“Delta”), including scheduled service on several international routes. On or about December 15, 2006, Delta plans to introduce daily nonstop service between Atlanta, Georgia and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic using its own large jet aircraft equipment, supplemented by Delta Connection service operated by ASA using 70-seat CRJ 700 aircraft. Because flights with 70-seat aircraft do not qualify as small aircraft operations, ASA requires an exemption, under which, it desires the flexibility to introduce additional U.S.-Dominican Republic services in the future as market conditions warrant.²

ASA and Delta are eager to commence marketing and sales activities with respect to the Atlanta-Puerto Plata flights. ASA requests that this application be approved as soon as possible to provide sufficient lead time to introduce the 70-seat service in December as proposed.

ASA is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed U.S.-Dominican Republic services. ASA has provided domestic and international regional jet

² Delta is already authorized to provide U.S.-Dominican Republic service under Segment 2 of its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Route 152. See Order 99-2-8.

service for many years, and the proposed foreign air transportation services are not materially different in terms of aircraft size or stage length from ASA's existing and historic scheduled interstate and foreign air transportation operations. ASA requests that the Department take official notice, pursuant to Rule 24 of the Department's Rules of Practice, of all other data on file with the Department necessary to establish ASA's fitness.

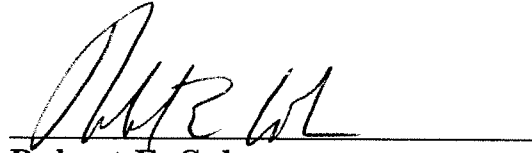
Grant of the requested exemption is in the public interest. Authorizing ASA to supplement Delta's proposed new Atlanta-Puerto Plata service with 70-seat regional jet flights will enable Delta to meet seasonal consumer demand for Dominican Republic service and maintain a service presence on this route on a year-round basis. These flights will not only benefit travelers and shippers in the Atlanta area, but will also provide convenient new connection alternatives at Delta's extensive Atlanta hub. Grant of this application will also enable ASA to introduce other new flights that will provide U.S. communities with enhanced options for service to the Dominican Republic, which is a burgeoning destination for U.S. tourists.

Approval of the requested exemption is consistent with the aviation agreement between the United States and the Dominican Republic of 1986 and the overall state of aviation relations between the United States and the Dominican Republic. See, e.g., Notices of Action Taken dated July 18, 2004

(Docket OST-2000-7340), July 6, 2004 (Docket OST-2004-13526), and
January 25, 2006 (Docket OST-2004-17265).

WHEREFORE, ASA requests that the Department promptly grant the
exemption authority described herein, and grant such other and further relief
as the Department deems to be in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Cohn", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Cohn
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-4999

Counsel for
**ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST
AIRLINES, INC.**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Application of Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc. for an Exemption has been served this 21st day of April, 2006, upon the following addressees:

Persons to be polled:

Scott.McClain@delta.com; carl.nelson@aa.com; rbkeiner@crowell.com;
hkamen@coair.com; Dan.Weiss@coair.com; jhill@dlalaw.com;
megan.rosia@nwa.com; daniel.skwarek@nwa.com; amosner@gcwconsulting.com;
Jeffrey.Manley@wilmerhale.com; howard_kass@usairways.com;
pmurphy@lopmurphy.com; matwood@sherblackwell.com;
jrichardson@johnlrichardson.com; dvaughan@kelleydrye.com; anbird@fedex.com;

Persons to be served but not polled:

ben.decosta@atlanta-airport.com; fbavent@airlineinfo.com



Helena Richardson